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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1958.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area

The area of the Urban District of Street is 3,069 acres.

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 1958 was 6,300.

Occupations

The principal occupations are shoemaking, the manufacture of leatherboard and animal feeding stuffs and agriculture.

Vital Statistics

Live Births (49 male, 45 female)	94
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	14.92
Still-births (1 female legitimate)	1
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births	10.64
Total live and still-births	95
Infant deaths (one male legitimate, one female illegitimate)	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births total	21.28
Ditto legitimate	10.64
Ditto illegitimate	10.64
Neo Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	21.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	0
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	11.9
Comparability Factor Births	0.99
" " Deaths	0.92

Causes of Death

Group		Male	Female	
	All causes	43	32	75
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
9	Other infectious disease	0	1	1
11	Malignant Neoplasm of lung	1	0	1
12	" " " breast	0	2	2
13	" " " uterus	0	1	1
14	Other malignant conditions	5	3	8
15	Leukaemia	1	0	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	5	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	9	6	15
20	Other heart disease	3	3	6
21	Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
23	Pneumonia	1	0	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	0	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	0	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
35	Suicide	1	3	4

Notification of Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	1
Pneumonia (Influenzal).	1
Whooping Cough	3

Notification of Tuberculosis

Respiratory	4
Non-respiratory	1
Deaths during year	2

Cases of Tuberculosis resident in district

Respiratory	19
Non-respiratory	1

Diphtheria Immunization

Primary	75
" under 1 year	58
Reinforcing	36

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Under 1 year	72
Age 1 - 2	13
Total	85

Vaccination

Primary	30
Re-Vaccination	3

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Children born 1943-58	834
Young persons 1933-42	4
Expectant mothers	12
Ambulance staff	5
Reinforcing injections	0

The figure for Smallpox vaccination is bad and Family doctors have been asked to advise it more strongly

District Nursing

The work of the District Nurses includes ante-natal and maternity care, health visiting, infant welfare clinics and school medical inspections as well as home nursing.

The year has been busy due to staff illness but it is understood that a fourth permanent nurse is to be appointed and consequently the boundaries of the district, which at present includes Street, Walton, Sharpham, Compton Dundon and Littleton, will be reviewed.

(1) Maternity Care

Home Confinements attended	53
Doctors ante-natal clinics attended	60
Ante-natal visits at home	1,211
Maternity Nursing visits	1,071
Attendances at Ante-natal classes of relaxation and exercises	30

Both Family Doctor practices in the District hold their own Ante and Post-Natal clinics and the nurses attend these clinics regularly.

The Family Doctors have access to 10 maternity beds at Butleigh Hospital. Mothers are often discharged from Maternity units on the third and fourth day following confinements and have to employ help at home; if they have stayed more than five days in hospital they lose the £5 home confinement grant and considerable hardship is caused through this system.

(2) Health Visiting

Children aged 0 - 1 yr	-	641
" " 1 - 2 "	-	194
" " 2 - 5 "	-	408

In this district where the standard of health is high the routine visiting of children at home by the Health visitor is pointless. It would be better to leave the selection of children needing visits, and problem families, to the Health visitor when she could give more time where it is needed.

(3) Infant Welfare Clinic

First attendances of children under 1 yr old	-	90
Children born in 1958 attending	-	75
" " " 1957 "		71
" " " 1956 -53 "	-	92
Total attendances by children under 1 year		1,383
" " " " 1 - 2		361
" " " " 2 - 3		338
Mothers attending during year		179

Sessions held - 50
" " with doctor - 18
Children examined by doctor - 82
Medical consultations - 108

Infant Welfare

The clinic at Hindhayes School is useful to mothers in the district. It also helps the Health visitors to observe the children. The value of the attendance of a doctor at the clinic, apart from immunising, is doubtful; the Family doctors in Street would rather that parents came to them for advice than go to a clinic doctor; since the advent of the National Health Service there is no obstacle in the way of parents wishing to consult their family doctor about their children.

The Family Doctors in Street prefer to immunise and vaccinate their own patients and arrange special clinics for this, they also use the combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus (triple) antigen (three injections). The Clinic often combine Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisation but still do not offer the advantages of the triple antigen. It would help if the Clinic offered Smallpox vaccination also and the Family Doctors favour this scheme.

(4) School Medical Inspections

Attendances at School Medical Inspections	-	42
" " Polio vaccination sessions	-	24

(5) General Nursing Visits - 2,792

Home Help Service

Cases attended and ceased during 1958

Over 65	Ceased	11	continuing	23
Under 65			"	2
Maternity	"	2	"	1
Pre and Post-natal	"	1		
Family of children	"	1		
Emergency cases	"	1		
Other cases	"	3		
Total		18		26

The Home Help Service is by now an essential efficient service. However, the Helps themselves complain that they often have to travel long distances between cases in the district on the same day. There is often a few days and even longer delay in obtaining help for a patient. These difficulties would be easily overcome by appointing a local organiser in Street who knows the district. Every endeavour should be made to find such an organiser.

Ambulance Service (St.John)

Full time personnel 8
Brigade strength 20
Voluntary Transport duties 1,587 hours
" Public " 284 "
Total mileage, 102,588
No. of patients 11,528

This is very efficient and much improved since the emergency number was moved from Shepton Mallet to Glastonbury. It is regrettable that the ambulance cars are instructed not to pick up people attending the physiotherapy department at Butleigh from their place of work, this causing unnecessary hardship to patients trying to stay at work. Also, hospitals are slack in not arranging patients transport after their first hospital attendance and sometimes allowing ill patients to return home by very devious routes.

General Pratitioner Service

The Family doctors are handicapped by having no direct access to X ray Departments as is usual in less backward areas of England. Also, although they have direct access to the Bridgwater and Taunton Pathelogical Departments they would be much helped by a dry sterile syringe service such as operates in the home counties. This would enable patients to be treated more efficiently by their Family Doctor and save much ambulance mileage

Hospital Facilities

The main Hospitals are at Taunton (22 miles) and Bridgwater (12 miles) and the latter is so busy that it can rarely admit emergencies from this district.

The Local Cottage Hospital at Butleigh (12 beds, 3 childrens' beds and 10 Maternity beds) has no Xray, pathelogical or Casualty Departments but is equipped for simple surgery and has a flourishing physiotherapy department; the latter department is severely handicapped by the lack of a second Short wave machine which leads to a long, unnecessary waiting list.

As Butleigh Hospital has no facilities for casualties they have to travel to Bridgwater 12 miles away often leading to considerable suffering.

There is a shortage of beds for acute illness in old people who have no relatives, specially in the winter months. A Local geriatric unit of say 10 beds attached to Butleigh Hospital would be of great assistance.

St.John Nursing Division - Glastonbury and Street

Nursing Strength - 19
Cadets in training - over 100

Public Duties 178 hours - no cases treated
Transport duties 421 hours - 185 patients, 9,772 miles.
Hospital duties 206 hours.
Nursing Duties 90 hours, 12 patients treated off public duty.
Other activities include off duty nursing, attendance at clinics, help with meals on wheels, etc.

Mass Radiography

No visit by the unit in 1958.

Old People's Welfare

This is looked after by the Old People's Welfare Committee. There are weekly meetings in the Crispin Hall on Thursdays and attendance averages about 85 out of 150 members. There are outings in the summer and this year a Holiday Club has been started.

Visiting the old people (about 65 in all) is carried out by a team of visitors who have small sums of money for helping and also by the W.V.S. who also help by shopping, doing errands and taking old people for drives. 72 parcels of goods were distributed at Christmas.

Meals on Wheels are supplied once a week by W.V.S., Red Cross, St.John etc. 16 meals are supplied now but the Family Doctors and District Nurses feel that some old people could do with meals at least three times weekly; this is being discussed.

A local chiropodist will visit old people who need such attention at a nominal charge.

It will be seen that the old people are looked after very well by this Committee.

Factories

Routine inspection of factories have been made during the year and special attention being given to fire precautions and lavatory accommodation.

Parks

The facilities available in Merriman Park, Woods Batch Recreation Ground, Wraxhill, Victoria Field and the Bowling Green at Greenbank continue to provide for recreation for the public.

Woods Batch Recreation Ground has a football and hockey pitch provided and the County Mixed School make full use of these facilities during term time.

Mortuary

The number of cases admitted during the year were:-

From within the Urban District 5
From without the Urban District 6

Cemetery

The number of burials was 53 (45 in 1957)

Water Supply

The water supply is main and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. The wet year experienced reduced the amount it was necessary to utilise Honeyhurst resources. A new submersible borehole pump was fitted in Millyard during the year.

New bulk supplies were given to Wells Rural District Council during the year in respect of the Parish of Butleigh and at Bleadney for supplies in Wookey and Coxley districts.

Piped supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory
24	2	1	-	--	--	--	--

Action respecting any form of contamination : Follow up samples were satisfactory. Chlorinator repaired in one instance.

Water Supplies from mains:-

	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES			BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES		
	Public	Water Companies	Private	Public	Water Companies	Private
No.of Dwelling Houses				6 (estimated figure)		
Population	6,300			20		

Sewage Disposal

A start was made on the partial reconstruction of the Sewage Works and this work is planned to extend over a period of five years. The new tank should be brought into use in the mid part of the coming year. Extension of sewers to serve new site for private development in Stonehill and to another site in Stonehill which the Council are developing have been completed.

Public Cleansing

The house and trade refuse is disposed of at two controlled tips. In the summer months at Meare and in winter in a quarry situated 100 yards from houses at Brooks Road Estate. The tips are inspected regularly for rats.

Greenbank Swimming Pool

The capacity of the bath is 200,000 gallons. The water is mains and heated. It is treated by recirculation, filtration and automatic chlorination. Samples of water are tested twice daily by the Supervisor. One bacteriological test was taken and found satisfactory. (May 1st to September 30th)

This excellent Pool continued to maintain its very high standard and its popularity increased again with attendances at 82,000 (64,260 in 1957). School children receiving instruction 10,663 (9,500 in 1957). This Pool is a very considerable and valuable asset to the health and well being of the inhabitants of the district.

Housing

The Council continued its policy of building a limited number of houses. The majority of these houses were erected by Direct Labour.

During the year conversion of a large house in Vestry Road was carried out to provide five flats for elderly people and at the side of this house there have been erected the first three Old People's Bungalows for which the Council have been responsible. Both the conversion work and the erection of the Bungalows were carried out by the Council Direct Labour Organisation.

Steps were taken to acquire and develop another site for Old People's Bungalows and a start has been made on the erection of a further eight Old People's Bungalows.

Site works were executed on a site off Stonehill and a start made on the erection by the Council of a larger type of semi-detached house for letting at economic rent and for sale.

Work of erecting the ordinary Council houses has been proceeding on Church Road site and the remainder of the houses on the Brooks Road Site have been completed and occupied during the year.

Total number of permanent dwellings in District 1979

Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority 606

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
	For Slum clearance.	Other purposes	slum clearance	Other purposes		
Local Authority	-	24	2	7	5 (conversion of private house by L.A.)	
Private Enterprise	-	33	-	23	-	

Number of post-war houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1958		Housing Programme for 1959	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum clearance	For Other Purposes
449	154	2	24

Number of houses found overcrowded - (est) 10

Number of houses made fit during year - 1

Houses required:-

(i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition - 13
(ii) To abate overcrowding - (est) 10
(iii) For other purposes - Minimum 110

Total number of applications for Council houses at the end of the year - 92

Applications for Council houses are only accepted from persons who are:

(a) resident in the Urban District or
(b) have a minimum of 10 years previous residence

Improvement Grants

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected	
	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings
31.7.49-31.12.57	8	10	6	8	2	2
During year	8	8	8	8	-	-

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year:	6
Average cost per dwelling approved during year	£285
Average Rent fixed	Rent Act, 1957
Amount of grant payable by Local Authority	£1,139

The Council decided during the year to vary their policy making available up to 50% of the approved cost of the work for Grant aid instead of 25% as previously.

Food

Milk

Number of Registered Distributors - 4

Number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) - 6

Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk - 3

Number of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy if outside the area - 1

Samples for biological and Designated Milk examination are taken by the County Council.

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for:-

Manufacture and retail - 1

Retail only - 19

Samples are taken by the Somerset County Council.

Food Hygiene

Generally, progress has been made during the year in relation to clean handling of food. The further adoption of cooled and covered storage of displayed food is a welcome step forward in this direction.

Bakehouses, Restaurants and Kitchens

The routine work of fostering and encouraging clean methods and personal hygiene has continued during the year.

Milk and Dairies

The results of the samples of milk taken by the County Council during the year within the district has indicated generally satisfactory conditions are existing.

Slaughter Houses

Slaughtering continued during the year in the two Slaughter Houses in the district and upwards to 300 visits have been made during the year. All animals slaughtered have been inspected and the details are given in the attached detailed statement.

Clean Air Act.

All new properties in the district will comply with the conditions laid down in the Act.

	Cattle including cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	227	-	20	699	688	--
Number inspected	227	-	20	699	688	
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19		Nil	15	24	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7%		-	2%	4%	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	10	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2%	-	-	-	2%	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:						
(a) Tuberculosis	80				120	
(b) Cysticercosis	1,568					
(c) Other	334			74	181	
Total in lbs condemned	1,982			74	301	Total 2,357

<u>Tinned Foods</u>:

Tinned Meat	53
Other Foods	68
	2,478